

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please amend the abstract as follows:**

A supporting rack includes ~~arranged~~ rods arranged to form a planar grid pattern and ~~connection means~~ connected to allow for modification in the overall space occupied by the rack. In a preferred embodiment, a rack for use in a conventional domestic cooking oven is formed of perpendicularly disposed rods of material such as stainless steel ~~suitable for withstanding~~ enabled to withstand the temperatures to which such an oven may be subjected. The rack and has an outer frame capable of interfacing with and supported by inside oven walls, and ~~generally centrally disposed means~~ the individual rod sections being so connected as to allow folding or separation of the ~~portions~~ sections of the rack to reduce its size and facilitate handling when performing tasks such as cleaning the rack.

**Please amend the disclosure as follows:**

Please amend paragraph [0007] as follows:

[0007] A supporting rack comprises: a planar surface comprising a first and a second ~~portion~~ section; connection means adapted to allow connection of said planar surface ~~portions~~ sections to form a unitary planar supporting surface for supporting food or food containers; wherein said unitary planar supporting surface is adapted to be removably inserted into a cooking device, and maintained therein; and wherein said first and second surface ~~portions~~ sections are capable of being folded about said connection means or detached from each other to reduce the overall space occupied by the rack and to facilitate handling and storage of the rack.

Please amend paragraph [0008] as follows:

[0008] The invention further contemplates a supporting rack, comprising: a planar surface comprising a first and a second ~~portion~~ section; connection means adapted to allow connection of said planar surface ~~portions~~ sections to form a unitary planar supporting surface for supporting food or food containers; wherein said unitary planar supporting surface is adapted to support said food or food containers above another planar surface; wherein said first and second surface ~~portions~~ sections are capable of

being folded about said connection means or detached from each other to reduce the overall space occupied by the rack and to facilitate handling and storage of the rack.

Please amend paragraph [0012] as follows

[0012] However, rack structures falling within the scope of the present invention embodying rods of non-perpendicular disposition may also be found workable in practice providing the overall structure includes the feature of the ready detachability of one planar surface from another as previously taught herein or the provision of a hinged connection to ensure foldability of one larger planar rack surface into two smaller surfaces. ~~The rack of the present invention preferably includes a joining or hinged mechanism comprising a joint wherein the plurality of rods of one of the at least two smaller portions connect with or slide into the corresponding rods of another one of the at least two smaller portions. In one preferred structure the hinge connection includes a channel passing through corresponding ends of two smaller portions of the rack so that they assume an in-line and operable connection when joined, and secured so that at least one securing pin is passing through the channel to effect connection.~~

Add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0012]

The rack of the present invention preferably includes a joining or hinged mechanism comprising a joint wherein the plurality of rods of one of the at least two smaller ~~portions~~ sections connect with or slide into the corresponding rods of another one of the at least two smaller ~~portions~~ sections. In one preferred structure the hinge connection includes a channel passing through corresponding ends of two smaller ~~portions~~ sections of the rack so that they assume an in-line and operable connection when joined, and secured so that at least one securing pin is passing through the channel to effect connection.

Please amend paragraph [0013] as follows

[0013] The rack of the present invention is preferably structured so that in use the, at least two smaller ~~portions~~ sections of the rack, may be readily and conveniently submersed in a standard kitchen sink or alternative washing or cleaning vehicle to facilitate cleaning of unwanted material from the rack.

The rack of the present invention is preferably structured so that in use the, at least two smaller portions of the rack, may be readily and conveniently submersed in a standard kitchen sink or alternative washing or cleaning vehicle to facilitate cleaning of unwanted material from the rack.

Add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0018]:

**FIG. 4** is a top plan view of an embodiment of the oven rack of the present invention.

Add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0021]:

**FIG. 4** illustrates an embodiment of the present invention wherein the outside frame 3 is circular or elliptical in shape and contains a centrally located rod extending over the diameter of the circle.